

Veteran nurses were also asked how often they felt that short staffing had affected their ability to meet their patients' needs in the month prior to the survey. The answer options were: never, 1 to 2 times, 3 to 5 times, weekly, or daily. About a quarter of veteran nurses (26% of RNs and 23% of LPNs) said that short staffing had never had an impact on their ability to deliver care in the month prior to the survey. But almost as many (20% of veteran RNs and 22% of veteran LPNs) said that short staffing affected them daily. In general, both RN and LPN staff nurses reported similar experiences with short staffing. However, the setting in which veteran nurses are employed is a significant factor in the frequency with which short staffing affects their ability to meet patient needs. Table 11 illustrates how the frequency of short staffing experiences differs between nurses in hospitals, long term care facilities, and community-based settings. The influence of setting was the same for both RNs and LPNs.

**Table 11. Frequency of short staffing by setting type for veteran RN and LPN nurses**

Short Staffing Frequency:	Veteran RNs			Veteran LPNs		
	Community Settings	Hospital In-patient	Long Term Care	Community Settings	Hospital In-patient	Long Term Care
	<b>N=58</b>	<b>N=65</b>	<b>N=16</b>	<b>N=65</b>	<b>N=29</b>	<b>N=46</b>
Never	50.0	10.8	12.5	44.6	6.9	6.5
1 – 2 times	13.8	29.2	12.5	20.0	27.6	26.1
3 – 5 times	8.6	13.9	25.0	7.7	17.2	13.0
Weekly	13.8	23.1	12.5	15.4	20.7	19.6
Daily	13.8	23.1	37.5	12.3	27.6	34.8
Percent Totals	100	100.1	100	100	100	100
$\chi^2$ p-value	<b>0.0001</b>			<b>0.0002</b>		

A much greater percentage of veteran nurses working in community settings said that within the month prior to the survey short staffing had never affected their ability to meet patient or client needs compared to nurses in either hospital in-patient settings or in long term care facilities. More than one-third of veteran RNs and LPNs in long term care settings said that short staffing had affected them on a daily basis in the month prior to the survey.

When we examined the frequency of short staffing across the three regions of the state, controlling for the setting, we found no significant differences across regions. That is, the frequency of short staffing for veteran nurses in hospital settings was the same in all regions of the state, as was the experience of veteran RNs and LPNs in long term care or community settings, regardless of regional location.